

Application No. 09/762,153

**REMARKS**

Claims 53--64, 67-77, 79, 81-98, 100-102, 105, 110-113 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 53, 57, 67, 68, 71-75, 77, 81-88, 90-95 and 98 are amended, claim 80 is canceled, and claim 113 is added.

Claims 57 and 68 have been amended to overcome the 112 rejections. Also, claim 90 has been amended according to the amendment to claim 68.

Independent claim 53 has been amended to include the limitations of allowed claim 71. Therefore, independent claim 53 and dependent claims 54-64, 67-71, 74 and 76, which depend from claim 53, are patentable over the cited references. Claim 71 has been amended to recite the features deleted from claim 53.

Claims 72-73 and 75, which contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 72-73 and 75 are patentable over the cited references.

Independent claim 77 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 80 and the limitations of allowed claim 87. Therefore, independent claim 77 and dependent claims 79, 81-97 and 110-112, which depend from claim 77, are patentable over the cited references.

Independent claim 98 has been amended to recite that the support member includes a ring plate and a plurality of roller supports axially extending from the ring plate to rotatably hold the rolling bodies and that the support member is movable relative to the driving and driven rotors. That is, as shown in Figs. 29-32(b), the support member (206) includes a ring plate (225) and a plurality of roller supports (226) axially extending from the ring plate (225) to rotatably hold the rolling bodies (205). As shown in Figs. 32(a) and 32(b), the support member (206) is movable relative to the driving and driven rotors (202, 204).

The Examiner states that Sato (JP 8-200401) illustrates (see Figs. 1-9) a clutch having rolling bodies (6, 21) held in a predetermined position by a support member (4, 5, 23). The Examiner also states that Boyden (US 3,243,023) illustrates a clutch having rolling bodies (44) held in a predetermined position by a support member (32, 46).

However, in Sato, the members 4, 23 correspond to the driving rotor of the claimed invention, and the member 5 corresponds to the driven rotor of the claimed invention. Sato does not disclose a support member that includes a ring plate and a plurality of roller supports axially extending from the ring plate and is movable relative to the driving and driven rotors, as recited

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in claim 98. In Boyden, the member 32 corresponds to the driving rotor of the claimed invention and the member 46 is a sleeve retainer, which is located between the adjacent two rolling bodies 44a, 44b and accommodates a spring 45. Although it seems that the sleeve retainer 46 is movable relative to the rotors 32, 39, the sleeve retainer 46 is different from the support member of the claimed invention in structure and function. That is, the sleeve retainer 46 does not include a ring plate and a plurality of roller supports axially extending from the ring plate. Also, the sleeve retainer 46 does not function to hold a relative positional relationship of the rolling bodies 44a, 44b (see Fig. 3).

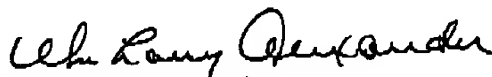
Therefore, claim 98 is patentable over the cited references.

New claim 113 has been added. Claim 113 includes all the limitations of claims 53, 56 and 65 in the amendment filed on November 26, 2002. In the Final Office Action dated February 25, 2003, the Examiner allows the combination of claims 53, 56 and 65.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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